

THE LIGHTING OF GREEK TEMPLES.

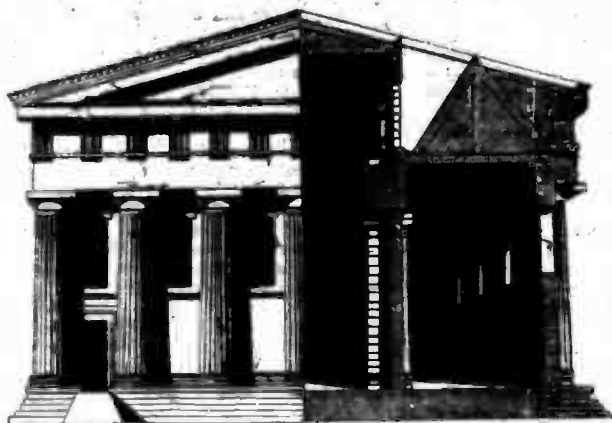


FIG. 1.—TEMPLE OF JUPITER AT AGRIGENTUM.

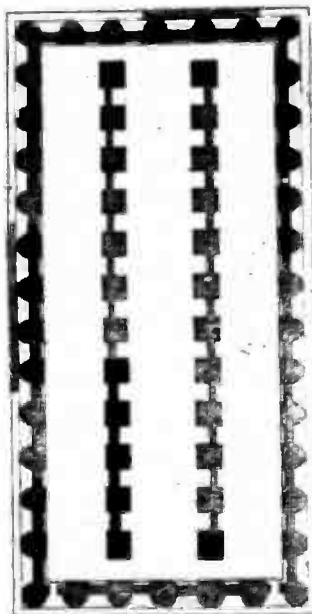


FIG. 2.—PLAN OF TEMPLE OF JUPITER AT AGRIGENTUM.

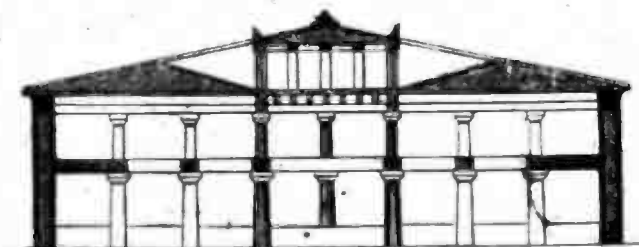


FIG. 3.—SECTION OF TEMPLE AT ELEUSIS.

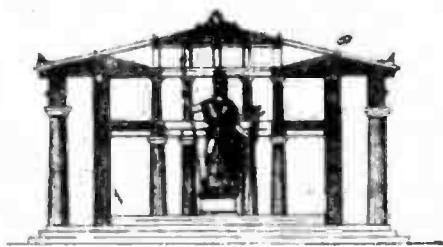


FIG. 4.—SECTION OF PARTHENON.

The lower building adjoining contains the domestic offices of the residence, and other rooms not immediately connected with the business of the bank, and is externally constructed with stock brickwork and stone dressings. In other respects the drawing explains itself.

The works are not being done by contract, but by measure, and schedules of prices already agreed upon.

THE LIGHTING OF GREEK TEMPLES.

MR. FERGUSSON'S "INQUIRY INTO THE PRINCIPLES OF BEAUTY IN ART."

We have already given our readers some idea of the opinions on matters of art in England entertained by Mr. Fergusson, and of the bold and fearless manner in which he has attacked some errors and prejudices. What we have said has, we hope, led many of our readers to study his book themselves and to enjoy the pleasure the perusal of it affords.

As yet, however, led away by the more salient points, we have not referred to any of the architectural questions which Mr. Fergusson has sought to solve, and this omission we desire now to rectify.

There is nothing connected with the disposition of Greek temples which has given rise to more discussion than—the mode of lighting them. "Many authors, who have been shocked at the clumsiness with which modern architects restore the hypæthron, which is always done by merely removing the roof off the cell, and exposing the latter to the weather as an open court, have denied its existence altogether." Our author, with justice, will neither believe

that the light of day was altogether shut out from the temples, nor that they were without roofs. Referring to the sculptured frieze round the cell of the Temple of Apollo Epicurius, at Phigalia (now in the British Museum), he urges that no artificial means would have lighted this as it should be, and that the Greeks never would have placed such a work where it must remain in the dark.

"The architects," he observes, "who restored this temple for Stewart's 'Athens,' as well as M. Blouet, felt this, and, to avoid the difficulty, omitted the roof over the cell altogether, making it merely an open court—a sham temple, in short, a peristyle and dead wall surrounding nothing: such ideas, I know, occur quite naturally to architects now-a-days, but never were executed anywhere except by them; so that this, certainly, is not the solution of the problem."

Our author then points out what he considers was the mode of lighting adopted, and this will be better conveyed by the annexed woodcuts than by words.

The annexed plan of the temple of Jupiter, at Agrigentum, which first led the writer to this view of the question, "shows an immense cell, at least 230 feet long by 50 wide and 70 high, which no one will, I am sure, contend was ever lighted by lamps. Mr. Cockerell,* from whom the plan is taken, has, in his restoration, admitted the light correctly enough into the side aisles (except that in a Doric building the jambs could not have been sloping), but how he could help seeing that the centre was lighted by windows between the Talamones I cannot understand. To me it appears so easy to effect this, and so self-evident that this was

the mode by which light was introduced into the cell, that I am content to refer the proof to the annexed woodcut (fig. 1), which, without pretending to minute accuracy, or to being an ornamental restoration, at least explains how it could be done, and with a little pains it would not be difficult to shew how it could be done ornamentally."

The "Section of Temple at Eleusis" shews how he would restore the roofs of that structure, and he translates the word *opæon* in Plutarch's notice of this temple, in his life of Pericles, "clerestory."

Fig. 4 shews the same system applied to the Parthenon; and this ingenious theory is strongly corroborated by the fact, that the Egyptians used this mode of lighting in their great halls and some of their temples.

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 17th February, for the erection of a new church at Rushall, near Tonbridge Wells, to be executed in stone; by 25th inst., for the erection of a parsonage-house at Exbury, with offices, chaise-house, &c.; by 1st March, for deepening, widening, &c., 100 miles of drain within the Middle Level, Norfolk, &c., with erection of bridges, sluices, tunnels, &c.; by 15th inst., for alterations and additions to Cleobury Mortimer Union Work-house; by 16th inst., for the formation of a public sewer at Newcastle; by 17th inst., for laying down water-pipes at Southampton; and by a date not specified, for a gas-holder and cast-iron tank, for the United General Gas Company, with six tons of tank plates, and 500 yards of 10-inch, and 400 yards of 6-inch gas mains.

* Stewart's "Athens," vol. v.